

## **REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL**

**October 21, 2014**

The Jasper County Council met this date at 7:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioners' Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Rein O. Bontreger, H. Dan Stalbaum, Ronald G. Sipkema, Gerrit H. DeVries, John T. Price, Stephen R. Jordan and Andrew Andree. Also present was Donya Jordan, Deputy Auditor. Mr. Bontreger called the meeting to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. DeVries.

MINUTES: Mr. DeVries made a motion to approve the Minutes of the 2015 Budget Hearings held on August 25, 2014 and the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 16, 2014. Mr. Andree seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / JASPER COUNTY DRUG-FREE COMMUNITY FUND: Advertised in the Jasper County Drug-Free Community Fund, Other Services & Charges, Coordinator Services was \$670.00. Mr. Price made a motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2014-10A**. Mr. Stalbaum seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BUDGET: Advertised in the County General Fund, Soil & Water Conservation District Budget, Personal Services, Part-Time Help was \$5,200.00. Mr. Stalbaum made a motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2014-10B**. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / DONATIONS ANIMAL SHELTER FUND: Advertised in the Donations Animal Shelter Fund, Capital Outlays, Equipment was \$79.00. Pauline Boring, Animal Control Board, stated that they would like for this request to be cancelled.

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS / ANIMAL SHELTER DONATIONS: Kyler Laird, Animal Control Board, stated that they are requesting to use money from the Donation Fund to reimburse employees who put out a lot of money for a parade float. Mr. DeVries asked what the amount would be? Mrs. Jordan replied that the amount is a little over \$1,300.00. Mr. Bontreger asked what kind of response was received? Kristen Bahleda, Animal Control Director, stated that they won a trophy for best pet and we tied for best float. Pauline Boring, Animal Control Board, stated that a majority of the money was used in goody bags that were passed out during the parade.

TRANSFER / CREDIT COUNTY SHARE FUND: A request has been made to transfer \$120.00 from Other Services & Charges, Maintenance of Postage Machine to Supplies, Postage within the CREDIT County Share Fund, Commissioners' Budget. Mr. Price made a motion to approve the transfer as requested. Mr. Sipkema seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

TRANSFER / HEALTH DEPARTMENT FUND: A request has been made to transfer \$1,500.00 from Capital Outlays, Furniture & Equipment to Other Services & Charges, Equipment Maintenance & Repair within the Health Department Fund. Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve the transfer as requested. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT / 2014 SALARY ORDINANCE: Mr. Price made a motion to approve the following amendment to the 2014 Salary Ordinance. Mr. Andree seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### County General – Animal Control

Deputy Animal Control Officer acting as Interim Animal Control Director:

\$1,000.00 in addition to the 2014 Deputy Animal Control salary

SALARY ORDINANCE FOR 2015: Mr. Sipkema made a motion to approve the Ordinance to set Salaries for Officers and Employees of Jasper County for 2015. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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FARM METAL THEFT: Mr. Price reported that he, along with Sheriff Risner, Prosecutor Christine Haskell, Commissioner Culp, and Councilman Steve Jordan, have all been concerned about the farm metal theft problem. Mr. Price has spoken with Daniel Kelley, Legislative Assistant, in regards to the law being the problem. Per phone call, Sheriff Risner was told today that they are working on improving the farm theft law from the aspect of trying to discourage or prevent the scrap yards from knowingly accepting stolen farm metal. Mr. Price stated that they will continue to follow up.

PUBLIC HEARING AND BUDGET ADOPTION OF BINDING REVIEWS:

Rensselaer Central School Corporation: Ned Speicher, Rensselaer Central School Corporation, stated that the School Board is recommending the budget as advertised and addressed at the public hearing. Mr. Bontreger asked for public comment. There was no public comment. Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve the Rensselaer Central School Corporation budget as presented. Mr. Sipkema seconded and the motion carried. Let the record show that Mr. Price abstained.

Jasper County Airport Authority: Regarding the adoption of the budget submitted by the Jasper County Airport Authority, Mr. Bontreger asked for public comment. There was no public comment. Mr. Sipkema made a motion to approve the Jasper County Airport Authority budget as presented. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District: Regarding the adoption of the budget submitted by the Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District, Mr. Bontreger asked for public comment. There was no public comment. Mr. Stalbaum made a motion to approve the Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District budget as presented. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Iroquois River Conservancy District: Regarding the adoption of the budget submitted by the Iroquois River Conservancy District, Mr. Bontreger asked for public comment. Hans Markland expressed concern regarding the high amount of the tax. Dan Blaney and Dale Lehe, Board Members, assured Mr. Markland that the tax has gone way down and will continue to go down next year. Mr. Sipkema made a motion to approve the Iroquois River Conservancy District budget. Mr. DeVries seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: In response to a comment from Bernard Seegers, concerned citizen, Mr. Bontreger replied that the Commissioners are working on addressing the establishment of a Violations Bureau. Once again, establishing and enforcing ordinances is the Commissioners' business.

Hans Markland, concerned citizen, stated that there is a lot of crime being committed against farmers and not much is being done. I've been hit several times and the Sheriff is minimizing the crime. Mr. Bontreger replied that Mr. Price spoke earlier in the meeting addressing the fact that they are working on getting some legislation with the assistance of the Sheriff and local Prosecutor. Once again, this is beyond Council business. Mr. Price explained that you have to prove that these scrap yards knowingly accepted stolen merchandise. It's impossible to prove when they are not following the law and documenting who and where the item came from along with obtaining photo id's.

There being no further business, Mr. Price made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Andree seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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Rein O. Bontreger, President

ATTEST:

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Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County

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